

HOUSE RESOLUTION 309

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Joseph Bernard "J.B." Trotter III for meritorious service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Bernard "J.B." Trotter III is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity as the first president of the local Union 1733 of the American Federation State County Municipal Employee (A.F.S.C.M.E.), a position he attained after transitioning from his job as a Time Study Engineer at the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company to the A.F.S.C.M.E. during the famous Memphis sanitation strike; and

WHEREAS, throughout J.B. Trotter's illustrious tenure as president of A.F.S.C.M.E., he organized the City of Memphis Hospital's licensed practical nurses and other employees in need of representation, as well as the Memphis City Schools cafeteria workers, Memphis Housing Authority employees, and Park Commission and Shelby County School employees; and

WHEREAS, he has also demonstrated great leadership acumen as owner of United Taxi Cab Company and Veterans Cab Company, overseeing more than 150 cars and more than 300 employees daily; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to breaking color barriers and bringing equality to the realm of public service, J.B. Trotter holds the distinction of being the first black Manager of Personnel for the City of Memphis and its seventh black employee overall, as well as being the highest ranking black employee at City Hall; upon leaving this position, he had integrated every division

of Civil Services with top black management and integrated various programs in the Memphis City Fire Department and Police Department; and

WHEREAS, rendering sterling service as Personnel Director for the City of Memphis, J.B. Trotter sought out and reappointed former racially-discriminated-against firefighters who were wrongfully terminated or left voluntarily due to mistreatment; his noble work helped to ease the tension among firefighters and further desegregate the Memphis City Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, at the age of thirty-five, Mr. Trotter was assigned to the Memphis City Police Department to review police manpower practices, including evaluation of promotions, recruiting practices, selection in training program, and use of present personnel; he implemented the Police Service Technician program, which is still in use today, and worked assiduously to create a respectful work environment within the Department; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community, J.B. Trotter is a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School and Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, his many professional achievements aside, Mr. Trotter enjoys the love and companionship of his wife, Mrs. Antionette Ferrell Trotter, and is the proud father of eight children; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud J.B. Trotter for his dedication to the City of Memphis and the State of Tennessee and their citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Mr. Joseph Bernard "J.B." Trotter III for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, including his laudable work as the first president of the local Union 1733 of the A.F.S.C.M.E., the City of Memphis Personnel Director, and owner of United Cab Company and Veterans Cab Company, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

